

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A network comprising:
 - 2 a first Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) station;
 - 3 a first communication medium coupled to the VOIP station;
 - 4 a router, coupled to the first communication medium, including a network
 - 5 address translation (NAT) firewall;
 - 6 a second communication medium coupled to the router; and
 - 7 a public proxy/gatekeeper (PPG), coupled to the second communication
 - 8 medium, that masquerades un-translated NAT IP addresses received from the
 - 9 first VOIP station.
- 1 2. The network of claim 1 wherein the PPG assigns one or more dedicated
 - 2 ports for the first VOIP station to implement VOIP communications from behind
 - 3 the NAT firewall.
- 1 3. A network comprising:
 - 2 a router including a network address translation (NAT) firewall;
 - 3 a first communication medium coupled to the router; and
 - 4 a first Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) station, coupled to the first
 - 5 communication medium, that transmits dummy packets to the router at
 - 6 predetermined intervals to maintain open ports behind the NAT firewall to allow
 - 7 call signaling from devices external to the NAT firewall.